

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Reallocation of  
Emergency Response Funds  
*May 15, 2002*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

In furtherance of the provisions of Public Law 107–38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, today I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred from the Emergency Response Fund.

This reallocation within the United States Postal Service reflects revised requirements related to the anthrax incidents that af-

fected the Nation's mail. As provided in Public Law 107–38, the reallocation would be effective 15 days from the date of this transmittal.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Funding for the  
Disaster Relief Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency  
*May 15, 2002*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–73, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, I hereby request and make available \$500 million for the Disaster Relief program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

These funds will allow FEMA to continue providing assistance to victims of disasters in several States, including victims of recent tornadoes in Maryland and storms and flooding in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. These funds also would be available for ongoing response to prior disasters

and to ensure that FEMA has resources on hand to provide timely response to future disasters.

I designate the \$500 million made available today as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

## Remarks at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast May 16, 2002

*The President.* Thank you all. *Sientense.*  
[Laughter]

*Audience member.* [Inaudible]

*The President.* *Sí. Muchas gracias.*  
[Laughter]

Thank you all for such a warm welcome. It is *un honor para mí de estar aquí para le*—the first—the first—not the last but the first—[laughter]—National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast. I want to tell you it's an honor to be here amongst people who dedicate their lives to the embetterment of our fellow human beings. I appreciate that a lot.

I want to thank Luis. I met with Luis; one of the things that struck me was he is a—he'll say "sergeant"; I say "general" in the army of compassion in Philadelphia. I loved his compassion. Not only is he a man of God; he also understands the importance of education. We talked about a charter school he wanted to start in his neighborhood. He understands what I understand, that when you have quality education, you improve inner-city America. And so, Luis, I want to thank you for your focus on education. We must continue to work to make sure *todos los niños puedan leer*.

I want to thank Mel Martinez. *Dónde está Mel?* Anyway, he's somewhere here. He's a member of my Cabinet. You may remember the story about Mel. He's the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development now. As a young boy, his mother and daddy put him on an airplane to America from Cuba. He was a part of Operation Pedro Pan. They wanted their son to be raised in freedom. They longed for freedom and were willing to take the risk to send their loved one to the land of freedom. And now I'm proud he has gone from a young *niñito* in Pedro Pan; today, he is now the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. And it shows the wonderful spirit and strength of our country.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. I see I've got Senators here and Members of the Congress. Thank you all for coming. It's important that you're here, and I appreciate you being here as well.

I want to thank all who have worked hard to set this breakfast up. It gives me a chance to come and remind us all that America has many traditions of faith, and that's important to always remember. We have never imposed any religion, and that's really important to remember, too. We welcome all religions in America—all religions. We honor diversity in this country. We respect people's deep convictions.

We know that men and women can be good without faith. We know that. We also know that faith is an incredibly important source of goodness in our country. Throughout our history, Americans of faith have always turned to prayer—for wisdom, prayer for resolve, prayers for compassion and strength, prayers for commitment to justice and for a spirit of forgiveness.

Since America's founding, prayer has reassured us that the hand of God is guiding the affairs of this Nation. We have never asserted a special claim on His favor, yet we've always believed in God's presence in our lives. This has always been true. But it has never been more true since September the 11th. Prayer has comforted people in grief. Prayer has served as a unifying factor in our Nation. Prayer gives us strength for the journey ahead. Millions of Americans have turned to prayer during these times and have been reminded of an important truth: While weeping may endure for a night, joy comes in the morning.

The last 8 months have showed the world the American character is incredibly strong and confident. Yet prayer reminds us that a great people must be humble